

**Northern Virginia Regional Partnership Planning Project
Steering Committee Meeting
February 25, 2004**

In Attendance:

Jane Anthony, NVTC Parent/PAIR
George Barker, HSANV
Jessica Burmester, Fairfax-Falls Church
(Board Member)
Lynn DeLacy, NVMHI
Joan Durman, Consultant
Tom Geib, Prince William CSB
Jim Gillespie, Loudoun CPMT
Mike Gilmore, Alexandria CSB
Amanda Goza, NVMHI
Wendy Gradison, PRS, Inc.

Betsy Greer, NAMI Arlington/Arlington CSB
(Board Member)
Joe Hinshaw, NVMHI Advisory Council
Sharon Jones, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB
Leslie Katz, NVTC
Cindy Kemp, Arlington CSB
Edwin H. Kline, Sr., NVMHI
Lou Rosato, NVMHI
Jim Thur, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB
Carol Ulrich, Northern Virginia NAMI
Leslie Weisman, Arlington CSB

Jim Thur welcomed the group and introductions were made.

1. Announcements

- There were no announcements.

2. Approval of Notes from January 28, 2004 Meeting

The notes of the January 28, 2004 meeting were accepted as presented.

3. Updates:

- Mental Health Work Group – Leslie Weisman reported that the group met on February 11 and heard update on the Structural Work Group, discussed the new subgroups of the Mental Health Work Group, as well as the Discharge Protocols subgroup of the State Special Population Work Group

The Recovery Subgroup of the Mental Health Work Group has had a couple of meetings, and is a large and motivated group. There are fifteen members, with the goal of having provider and consumer representatives from each CSB, plus PRS and other involved parties. Both staff and consumer representatives from the Alexandria and Loudoun CSBs are needed. The group has begun to review what's happening at each CSB and the Institute in terms of recovery. Wendy Gradison reported that the group hopes to have a regional conference, possibly in September. Lynn DeLacy indicated that the Structural Work Group has given preliminary approval for funding support for the conference, but is awaiting a cost estimate, which the group is working on. The conference will be designed for consumers, family members and staff to attend. One possibility is to cover the cost of consumer registration fees, but charge others to attend. Wendy added that it will be a daylong conference, with workshops and luncheon. Leslie indicated that the Recovery Work Group is also talking about sharing recovery activities that are happening locally to help with networking. The group sees their work as an ongoing process, not limited to the conference.

Leslie indicated that the Forensic group is meeting monthly, with their last meeting on February 11. At that meeting, they looked at numbers of NGRIs, diagnosis, length of stay, treatment needs and treatment levels and had a conference call with the State. They have a consumer who's convened a group of other NGRI clients from the Institute to survey them. The Forensic group seeks to look more from treatment perspective to see if the needs of NGRI clients are being met after they are discharged, since many are revoked due to substance abuse issues.

Leslie reported that the Co-Occurring Disorders work group has begun meeting and is working to closely follow the State group that's going on. The next local meeting is scheduled for March 12. The group has developed a mission and identified tasks, including a survey of persons in the community with co-occurring disorders to determine unmet needs. The group is excited to be part of the process, since they have never worked regionally on this scale before.

Leslie also reported that Joan Durman, the Partnership's consultant, focused the Mental Health Work Group on planning their activities for the spring/summer.

Jim Thur asked the status of the inpatient characteristics survey, and Lou Rosato responded that he has been gathering feedback on it. Amanda Goza will send the survey out to the hospitals, with an end of the week deadline.

- **MR/MI Work Group** – Leslie Katz reported that at their last meeting, the major discussion was on non-money-related improvements that could be implemented immediately, such as training. The group also discussed policy issues which should be raised in Richmond, based on the many recommendations which are included in the MR/MI report. As closure comes, the group plans to identify core recommendations to bring back to Steering Committee for endorsement. It was requested that Mark Diorio be asked to speak with Jim Thur or Lynn DeLacy to discuss when the group would be ready to bring those recommendation forward. Jim Thur noted that the MR/MI report is included in full Partnership report in its entirety, and encouraged everyone to read it.
- **Private Psychiatric Hospitals Update** – George Barker reviewed the issues surrounding the HCA proposal and the possible Alexandria Hospital closure. The HCA proposal would close both Dominion and Northern Virginia Community Hospitals, and add a small adolescent/child psychiatric unit in the new hospital location in Ashburn. If both proposals are approved, it would mean a net loss of 12 beds with Inova and 80 beds with HCA. The proposed move of the HCA adolescent program to Loudoun is not ideal since it's not centrally located for the region. The HSNV Board recommended denial of this application, and the State commission decision is to come within two weeks. Regarding Alexandria Hospital, Inova is scheduled to meeting with the Alexandria City Council to discuss the possible closure. George reported that Inova plans to file an application next week to expand the psychiatric bed capacity at Mt. Vernon by six or seven beds to replace what's currently done at Alexandria Hospital, and the medical staff at Alexandria Hospital have endorsed the proposal. If this proposal goes forward, it would mean a net loss of 12 beds. Lou Rosato indicated that the 19 beds at Mt. Vernon are essentially not being used at present. Tom Geib asked if there is a means for the public to get involved in this issue. George replied that it would be best to go directly to organization itself, as well as through HSNV and the State Health Commissioner, who ultimately will make the decision on the new beds. George added

that written communication can go to HSANV or directly to the State Health Commissioner. State approval is not needed to close beds, only to open new beds or relocate existing ones. George indicated that many hospitals lose money on psychiatric units and Northern Virginia is only unique in that we haven't already had hospitals closed. Northern Virginia has the lowest hospital utilization rate in the State. The strength of community-based services in the area helps to reduce the length of stay in psychiatric hospitals.

George also reported that Loudoun Hospital has expanded its psychiatric unit by 10 beds providing an expanded opportunity for persons around the area to access services, especially geropsychiatric services.

- Children and Youth – Jim Thur noted that in previous meetings he reported having met with regional CSA Coordinators on collaborative work and planning regarding youth services. The CSA Coordinators agreed to go to their respective CPMTs with the issue and then come back for the regional CPMT meeting on March 10. Loudoun, Fairfax and Prince William have done so, and Mike Gilmore and Cindy Kemp will follow up on their areas. Jim indicated that the goal is to develop a way to work collaboratively on this issue, and include the plan in the final Partnership report. Jim Gillespie asked how the issue will be framed at the regional CPMT meeting, and Jim replied that he should work with Gail Ledford (Fairfax CSA). Jim added that the proposal will also need to come back to the Partnership Steering Committee for endorsement.

4. Review Recommendations from August 2003 Report

Jim Thur briefly reviewed the handout of recommendations from the initial Partnership report and the group provided feedback which Joan Durman will incorporate into the final report. An executive summary will be provided to the Steering Committee in April, with the final report to come in August.

5. Community Feedback Process

Jim Thur reviewed the latest edition of the work plan. April and May have been designated for community feedback. Jim proposed that the activities conducted be similar to what was done initially, with community forums all around the region. Each CSB hosted at least one community forum and there were also consumer focus groups. Jim noted that the sessions were very valuable, but also labor intensive. Cathy Pumphrey of the Fairfax CSB will coordinate the arrangement of the community forums, but a lead person in each jurisdiction will be needed to arrange facilitation, recording and set-up for the forums and consumer focus groups. The group agreed to this proposal. The community forums would include a very brief presentation, then the floor would be opened for dialogue. An outline for these events will be presented to the Steering Committee in April. Joan Durman will provide guidance on how to put these events together.

6. Other Business

- The March 24 Steering Committee meeting was moved to March 31.
- The April 28 Steering Committee meeting was moved to April 21.
- Betsy Greer expressed thanks to Jessica Burmester for all her advocacy efforts.

Next Meeting:

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 31, 2004 at the Fairfax County Government Center in Conference Room 232. The April meeting was moved to April 21.

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